

6 March 1975

George--

Here's a proposed summary
of the legislation paper Bill and I
prepared for Senator Stennis and
Clark McFadden. It's as short as I
can get it.

Don

SYNOPSIS

Congressional Oversight Proposals

Several proposals to alter CIA oversight have been introduced. Most of these would create a joint Senate-House committee, but the focuses of the proposed joint committees are different. One would have oversight of all intelligence agencies and governmental surveillance activities, another would focus on the governmental national security structure, a third on solely governmental surveillance activities, and a fourth would exercise jurisdiction over all information and intelligence agencies. There is also a proposal for a new House standing committee entitled the Committee on the Central Intelligence Agency.

National Security and CIA Act Amendments

Proposals which have received major attention were submitted by Senators Stennis and Proxmire and Representative Nedzi. Generally, these bills would set out permissible areas of domestic activities, require CIA to report to Congress on all activities undertaken pursuant to section 102(d)(5) of the National Security Act, and require the DCI to develop plans, policies, and regulations in support of his responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods and report any violations to the Attorney General. New proposals by Representatives McCloskey

and Dellums would eliminate covert action and place other serious restrictions on the Agency:

Privacy

Hearings were held on March 5 before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations on bills to eliminate the Agency's exemption from the Privacy Act of 1974. CIA is not exempt from the provision of the Act allowing access to our files by American citizens. If the bill is passed, sensitive intelligence sources and methods could be jeopardized.

Surveillance

Over twenty-five bills have been introduced to date concerning electronic surveillance. Many of these aim at barring Armed Forces' domestic surveillance. If broadly construed, this legislation could inhibit the legitimate domestic collection of information about foreign developments through interviews of U. S. citizens. Another class of bills would prohibit without exception the use of warrantless electronic surveillance for national security reasons. The bills introduced in this area impose judicial standards which would severely restrict the gathering of foreign intelligence within the United States by means of electronic surveillance targetted against a foreign power or its agent.

Financial Disclosure

Bills introduced in both Houses would require certain Federal employees to file comprehensive financial statements to the Comptroller General. The public would have access to these statements. These bills directly conflict with section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, which exempts the Agency from laws requiring the disclosure of names of employees and salaries. They would also raise security problems, and are contrary to the spirit of the recently enacted Privacy Act.

General Accounting Office Audits

Senator Proxmire has introduced a bill which would give GAO carte blanche to audit any CIA account or expenditure.